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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~/WNINTEL/NOFORN

DISSEM 23 NOVEMBER 1979

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DOMESTIC COLLECTION DIVISION

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.
REPORT CLASS ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~--WNINTEL--NOFORN
COUNTRY LAOS
SUBJECT 1. POISON GAS ATTACKS ON HMONG VILLAGE
2. POISONED SALT
3. POISONED OR CONTAMINATED HEADACHE MEDICINE

SOURCE

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1. A NUMBER OF POISON GAS ATTACKS AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF DONG YIA VILLAGE (NEAR BAN NA LUONG IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS) WERE WITNESSED, BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER 1976. THE FIRST ATTACK CAME ON A CLEAR DAY DURING THE HARVESTING SEASON AT ABOUT 1100 HOURS, WHEN THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE WERE WORKING IN THE FIELDS. THE ATTACK BEGAN WHEN ONE AIRPLANE, A SINGLE-ENGINE, PROPELLER-DRIVEN AIRCRAFT OF THE "RAVEN" TYPE USED FOR RECONNAISSANCE BY THE FORCES OF FORMER GENERAL VANG P A O, CAME AND DROPPED LEAFLETS WHICH TOLD THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE THAT THERE WAS NO HOPE IN FURTHER RESISTANCE TO THE PATHET LAO. THE SAME AIRPLANE THEN RETURNED AND FIRED ONE ROCKET WHICH BURST IN THE AIR WITH WHITE SMOKE, FOLLOWED BY ROCKETS WHICH EXPLODED IN RED AND YELLOW CLOUDS OF POISON GAS. AS SOON AS THE RED AND YELLOW GAS ARRIVED IN THE FIELDS WHERE THE PEOPLE WERE, THEY FAINTED. SOME PEOPLE FELL DOWN FROM THE TREE STUMPS WHERE THEY HAD BEEN STANDING. THE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE GAS TURNED PALE, BECAME WEAK, AND DETERIORATED PHYSICALLY TO THE POINT WHERE 10 PEOPLE OUT OF THE VILLAGE POPULATION OF 500 (ALL OF WHOM WERE AFFECTED BY THE GAS) DIED.

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2. MOST OF THE ATTACKS WITH POISON GAS MADE AGAINST THE VILLAGE, WHICH WERE FREQUENT, ALMOST DAILY OCCURRENCES, USED THE ROCKETS WITH RED SMOKE. THE ATTACKING AIRCRAFT CAME IN WAVES OF TWO OR FOUR PLANES EACH. ONE AIRPLANE WOULD CIRCLE THE VILLAGE, AND MARK THE TARGET WITH A WHITE ROCKET. ON SUCCEEDING PASSES BY THE FIRST AND THEN THE SECOND AIRPLANE, A YELLOW ROCKET WOULD BE FIRED, AND THEN A RED ROCKET.

3. THE PATHET LAO ALSO POISONED THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE WITH CONTAMINATED SALT IN 1978. VILLAGERS WHO ATE FOOD PREPARED WITH THE POISONED SALT BECAME ILL WITH BLOODY DYSENTERY, AND THEIR TEETH SEEMED TO ROT. THE POISONED SALT COULD BE PURIFIED BY HEATING IT, WHEREUPON THE SALT GAVE OFF A FOUL SULFUR-LIKE ODOR. THE FLAME OF THE POISON SUBSTANCE WAS VISIBLE OVER THE CONTAINER IN WHICH THE SALT WAS HEATING. OF THE VILLAGE POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 500 PERSONS, ONLY 100 SURVIVED. MOST OF THE VILLAGERS WHO DIED SUCCEDED TO THE EFFECTS OF THE POISONED SALT.

4. THE PATHET LAO ALSO SOLD CONTAMINATED MEDICINES TO PEOPLE IN THE AREA. ONE SUCH MEDICINE WAS TAKEN IN APRIL 1977 FOR A HEADACHE, AND IT PRODUCED SYMPTOMS OF SEVERE WEAKNESS AND PARTIAL PARALYSIS, AND MADE THE BODY SMELL AS IF THE INSIDES WERE ROTTEN.

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EYESIGHT WAS DIMMED, AND THE EYES TURNED PALE YELLOW. THERE WAS A NOISE IN THE EARS LIKE THE BANGING OF A DRUM, AND PERSISTENT DIZZINESS. THE TISSUE OF THE GUMS AND THE PALATE DRIED UP AND DEVELOPED DEEP CRACKS. THE TEETH FELT AS THOUGH THEY WERE FALLING OUT OF THE GUMS. THE ENTIRE BODY FELT TENSE, AS IF INFLATED TO THE BURSTING POINT. THE STOMACH ACTUALLY SWELLED TO THE EXTENT THAT THE ENTIRE MIDSECTION OF THE BODY HAD TO BE SUPPORTED BY HANDS IF THE VICTIM WAS TO BE MOVED PHYSICALLY FROM POINT TO POINT. EVENTUALLY, THE ARMS AND LEGS BECAME PARALYZED. THE HEART SEEMED LIKE IT WOULD STOP WORKING, A SYMPTOM WHICH WAS RELIEVED ONLY BY A MEDICINE DEVELOPED FROM A WATER EXTRACT OF GREEN-SKINNED GOURDS AND OPIUM. BLOOD UNDER THE SKIN CLOTTED AND TURNED BLACK. WHEN THE CLOTS WERE PRICKED, THE BLOOD WOULD NOT RUN OUT. SWEATING WAS PROFUSE, ESPECIALLY ON THE BACK, AND IN THE GROIN AREA. SLEEP WAS DEEP AND CONSTANT TO THE POINT WHERE THE VICTIM COULD ONLY BE ROUSED AFTER REPEATED EFFORTS BY FAMILY MEMBERS. THE NOSE AND LIPS WERE DRY, AND TURNED DARK. THE EFFECTS OF THE POISON SEEMED TO COME IN WAVES, AT THE HEIGHT OF WHICH MUCH STICKY SALIVA WOULD BE PRODUCED. IT TOOK EIGHT MONTHS TO RECOVER FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE POISONED HEADACHE MEDICINE.

5.
 REPORT CLASS C O N F I D E N T I A L--WARNING NOTICE--INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED--NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS.

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ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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